What is claimed is:

1. In an electrophotographic image forming apparatus comprising an image forming section, which includes an image carrier and image transferring means, for transferring a toner image from said image carrier to a recording medium being conveyed by an endless belt while electrostatically adhering to said belt, assuming that a surface of said image carrier and a surface of said belt move at a speed of Vd and a speed of Vb, respectively, a ratio of Vb/Vd is variable by a user of said image forming apparatus.

2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said image forming section comprises a plurality of image forming sections each being assigned to a particular color.

3. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said image carrier and said image transferring means comprise a photoconductive drum and an image transfer roller, respectively.

4. In an electrophotographic image forming apparatus comprising an image forming section, which includes an image carrier and image transferring means, for transferring a toner image from said image carrier to a recording medium being conveyed by an endless belt while electrostatically adhering to said belt, assuming that a

surface of said image carrier and a surface of said belt move at a speed of Vd and a speed of Vb, respectively, a ratio of Vb/Vd is variable by either one of a service person and a person expected to deal with troubles of said image forming apparatus.

5. The apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein said image forming section comprises a plurality of image forming sections each being assigned to a particular color.

6. The apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein said image carrier and said image transferring means comprise a photoconductive drum and an image transfer roller, respectively.

7. In an electrophotographic image forming apparatus comprising an image forming section, which includes an image carrier and image transferring means, for transferring a toner image from said image carrier to a recording medium being conveyed by an endless belt while electrostatically adhering to said belt, assuming that a surface of said image carrier and a surface of said belt move at a speed of Vd and a speed of Vb, respectively, a ratio of Vb/Vd is variable for each of a plurality of process linear velocities.

8. The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein said image forming section comprises a plurality of image

forming sections each being assigned to a particular color.

9. The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein said image carrier and said image transferring means comprise a photoconductive drum and an image transfer roller, respectively.

10. In an electrophotographic image forming apparatus comprising an image forming section, which includes an image carrier and image transferring means, for transferring a toner image from said image carrier to a recording medium being conveyed by an endless belt while electrostatically adhering to said belt, assuming that a surface of said image carrier and a surface of said belt move at a speed of Vd and a speed of Vb, respectively, a ratio of Vb/Vd is variable in accordance with a kind of the recording medium.

11. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said image forming section comprises a plurality of image forming sections each being assigned to a particular color.

12. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said image carrier and said image transferring means comprise a photoconductive drum and an image transfer roller, respectively.

13. In an electrophotographic color image forming

apparatus comprising a plurality of image forming sections, which include an image carrier and primary image transferring means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement of endless intermediate image transferring means for sequentially transferring toner images from individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring means and then transferring a resulting composite toner image from said intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, assuming that a surface of said intermediate image transferring means and a surface of said recording medium move at a speed of Vi and a speed of Vp, respectively, a ratio of Vp/Vi is variable by a user of said image forming apparatus.

14. The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein said image carriers, said primary image transferring means and said intermediate image transferring means comprise photoconductive drums, image transfer rollers and an intermediate image transfer belt, respectively.

15. In an electrophotographic color image forming apparatus comprising a plurality of image forming sections, which include an image carrier and primary image transferring means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement of endless intermediate image

transferring means for sequentially transferring toner images from individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring means and then transferring a resulting composite toner image from said intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, assuming that a surface of said intermediate image transferring means and a surface of said recording medium move at a speed of Vi and a speed of Vp, respectively, a ratio of Vp/Vi is variable by a service person or a person expected to deal with troubles of said image forming apparatus.

16. The apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein said image carriers, said primary image transferring means and said intermediate image transferring means comprise photoconductive drums, image transfer rollers and an intermediate image transfer belt, respectively.

17. In an electrophotographic color image forming apparatus comprising a plurality of image forming sections, which include an image carrier and primary image transferring means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement of endless intermediate image transferring means for sequentially transferring toner images from individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring

means and then transferring a resulting composite toner image from said intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, assuming that a surface of said intermediate image transferring means and a surface of said recording medium move at a speed of Vi and a speed of Vp, respectively, a ratio of Vp/Vi is variable for each of a plurality of process linear velocities.

18. The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein said image carriers, said primary image transferring means and said intermediate image transferring means comprise photoconductive drums, image transfer rollers and an intermediate image transfer belt, respectively.

19. In an electrophotographic color image forming apparatus comprising a plurality of image forming sections, which include an image carrier and primary image transferring means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement of endless intermediate image transferring means for sequentially transferring toner images from individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring means and then transferring a resulting composite toner image from said intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, assuming that a surface of said

intermediate image transferring means and a surface of said recording medium move at a speed of Vi and a speed of Vp, respectively, a ratio of Vp/Vi is variable in accordance with a kind of the recording medium.

20. The apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein said image carriers, said primary image transferring means and said intermediate image transferring means comprise photoconductive drums, image transfer rollers and an intermediate image transfer belt, respectively.

21. In an electrophotographic color image forming apparatus comprising a plurality of image forming sections, which include an image carrier and primary image transferring means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement of endless intermediate image transferring means for sequentially transferring toner images from individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring means and then transferring a resulting composite toner image from said intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, assuming that a surface of said image carrier and a surface of said intermediate image transferring means move at a speed of Vd and a speed of Vi, respectively, a ratio of Vd/Vi is variable by a user of said image forming apparatus.

22. The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein said image carriers, said primary image transferring means and said intermediate image transferring means comprise photoconductive drums, image transfer rollers and an intermediate image transfer belt, respectively.

23. In an electrophotographic color image forming apparatus comprising a plurality of image forming sections, which include an image carrier and primary image transferring means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement of endless intermediate image transferring means for sequentially transferring toner images from individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring means and then transferring a resulting composite toner image from said intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, assuming that a surface of said image carrier and a surface of said intermediate image transferring means move at a speed of Vd and a speed of Vi, respectively, a ratio of Vd/Vi is variable by a service person or a person expected to deal with troubles of said image forming apparatus.

24. The apparatus as claimed in claim 23, wherein said image carriers, said primary image transferring means and said intermediate image transferring means comprise

photoconductive drums, image transfer rollers and an intermediate image transfer belt, respectively.

25. In an electrophotographic color image forming apparatus comprising a plurality of image forming sections, which include an image carrier and primary image transferring means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement of endless intermediate image transferring means for sequentially transferring toner images from individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring means and then transferring a resulting composite toner image from said intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, assuming that a surface of said image carrier and a surface of said intermediate image transferring means move at a speed of Vd and a speed of Vi, respectively, a ratio of Vd/Vi is variable for each of a plurality of process linear velocities.

26. The apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein said image carriers, said primary image transferring means and said intermediate image transferring means comprise photoconductive drums, image transfer rollers and an intermediate image transfer belt, respectively.

27. In an electrophotographic color image forming apparatus comprising a plurality of image forming sections,

which include an image carrier and primary image transferring means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement of endless intermediate image transferring means for sequentially transferring toner images from individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring means and then transferring a resulting composite toner image from said intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, assuming that a surface of said image carrier and a surface of said intermediate image transferring means move at a speed of Vd and a speed of Vi, respectively, a ratio of Vd/Vi is variable in accordance with a kind of the recording medium.

28. The apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein said image carriers, said primary image transferring means and said intermediate image transferring means comprise photoconductive drums, image transfer rollers and an intermediate image transfer belt, respectively.

29. In an electrophotographic image forming method using an image forming section, which includes an image carrier and image transferring means, for transferring a toner image from said image carrier to a recording medium being conveyed by an endless belt while electrostatically adhering to said belt, assuming that a surface of said image

carrier and a surface of said belt move at a speed of Vd and a speed of Vb, respectively, a ratio of Vb/Vd is variable by a user.

30. In an electrophotographic image forming method using an image forming section, which includes an image carrier and image transferring means, for transferring a toner image from said image carrier to a recording medium being conveyed by an endless belt while electrostatically adhering to said belt, assuming that a surface of said image carrier and a surface of said belt move at a speed of Vd and a speed of Vb, respectively, a ratio of Vb/Vd is variable by either one of a service person and a person expected to deal with troubles.

31. In an electrophotographic image forming method using an image forming section, which includes an image carrier and image transferring means, for transferring a toner image from said image carrier to a recording medium being conveyed by an endless belt while electrostatically adhering to said belt, assuming that a surface of said image carrier and a surface of said belt move at a speed of Vd and a speed of Vb, respectively, a ratio of Vb/Vd is variable for each of a plurality of process linear velocities.

32. In an electrophotographic image forming method using an image forming section, which includes an image

carrier and image transferring means, for transferring a toner image from said image carrier to a recording medium being conveyed by an endless belt while electrostatically adhering to said belt, assuming that a surface of said image carrier and a surface of said belt move at a speed of Vd and a speed of Vb, respectively, a ratio of Vb/Vd is variable in accordance with a kind of the recording medium.

33. In an electrophotographic color image forming method using a plurality of image forming sections, which include an image carrier and primary image transferring means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement of endless intermediate image transferring means for sequentially transferring toner images from individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring means and then transferring a resulting composite toner image from said intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, assuming that a surface of said intermediate image transferring means and a surface of said recording medium move at a speed of Vi and a speed of Vp, respectively, a ratio of Vp/Vi is variable by a user.

34. In an electrophotographic color image forming method using a plurality of image forming sections, which include an image carrier and primary image transferring

means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement of endless intermediate image transferring means for sequentially transferring toner images from individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring means and then transferring a resulting composite toner image from said intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, assuming that a surface of said intermediate image transferring means and a surface of said recording medium move at a speed of Vi and a speed of Vp, respectively, a ratio of Vp/Vi is variable by a service person or a person expected to deal with troubles.

35. In an electrophotographic color image forming method using a plurality of image forming sections, which include an image carrier and primary image transferring means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement of endless intermediate image transferring means for sequentially transferring toner images from individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring means and then transferring a resulting composite toner image from said intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, assuming that a surface of said intermediate

image transferring means and a surface of said recording medium move at a speed of Vi and a speed of Vp, respectively, a ratio of Vp/Vi is variable for each of a plurality of process linear velocities.

36. In an electrophotographic color image forming method using a plurality of image forming sections, which include an image carrier and primary image transferring means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement of endless intermediate image transferring means for sequentially transferring toner images from individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring means and then transferring a resulting composite toner image from said intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, assuming that a surface of said intermediate image transferring means and a surface of said recording medium move at a speed of Vi and a speed of Vp, respectively, a ratio of Vp/Vi is variable in accordance with a kind of the recording medium.

37. In an electrophotographic color image forming method using a plurality of image forming sections, which include an image carrier and primary image transferring means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement of endless intermediate image transferring means for

sequentially transferring toner images from individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring means and then transferring a resulting composite toner image from said intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, assuming that a surface of said image carrier and a surface of said intermediate image transferring means move at a speed of Vd and a speed of Vi, respectively, a ratio of Vd/Vi is variable by a user.

38. In an electrophotographic color image forming method using a plurality of image forming sections, which include an image carrier and primary image transferring means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement of endless intermediate image transferring means for sequentially transferring toner images from individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring means and then transferring a resulting composite toner image from said intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, assuming that a surface of said image carrier and a surface of said intermediate image transferring means move at a speed of Vd and a speed of Vi, respectively, a ratio of Vd/Vi is variable by a service person or a person

expected to deal with troubles.

39. In an electrophotographic color image forming method using a plurality of image forming sections, which include an image carrier and primary image transferring means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement of endless intermediate image transferring means for sequentially transferring toner images from individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring means and then transferring a resulting composite toner image from said intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, assuming that a surface of said image carrier and a surface of said intermediate image transferring means move at a speed of Vd and a speed of Vi, respectively, a ratio of Vd/Vi is variable for each of a plurality of process linear velocities.

40. In an electrophotographic color image forming method using a plurality of image forming sections, which include an image carrier and primary image transferring means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement of endless intermediate image transferring means for sequentially transferring toner images from individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring means and then

transferring a resulting composite toner image from said intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, assuming that a surface of said image carrier and a surface of said intermediate image transferring means move at a speed of Vd and a speed of Vi, respectively, a ratio of Vd/Vi is variable in accordance with a kind of the recording medium.